IN THE CLAIMS:

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request; and

Please write the claims to read as follows:

storage system to optimize an amount of readahead data retrieved from a data container of the storage system, the method comprising: maintaining a plurality of files; managing a separate set of readahead metadata for each individual read stream of 5 a plurality of read streams, wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read 6 7 requests to retrieve data from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file; storing the separate set of readahead metadata in a corresponding individual 8 readset data structure for the each individual read stream: 9 maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of in the 10 individual readset data structurestructures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected the each read stream, the plurality of factors determining allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of readahead data retrieved from the data 13 container the one or more client read requests: 14 receiving a client read request associated withfor a particular read stream at the storage system and determining an amount of readahead data to retrieve from the data 16 container for the particular read stream; receiving a next client read request associated with the particular read stream; 18

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a storage operating system implemented in a

if it is determined that the storage operating system is permitted to retrieve readahead data from the data container, performing the steps of,

readahead data from the data container in response to the received next client read

locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream:

 (i) modifying one or more of the plurality of factors stored within the readset data structure for the particular read stream;

determining whether the storage operating system is permitted to retrieve

(iii) adjusting, in response to modifying the one or more factors, an amount of
readahead data to retrieve from the data containerfor the next client read request
associated with the particular read stream, based on the plurality of factors stored within
the readset data structure, wherein the amount of readahead data to retrieve for the next
client read request is different from the amount of readahead data retrieved for the client
read request;
(iii) retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container; and

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data container is a file, directory, vdisk or lun.

(iii) determining if the readset data structure meets a criteria for being updated,

and if the readset data structure meets the criteria then updating the readset data structure,

- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storage operating system is determined to be permitted to retrieve readahead data from the data container when the client-
- 3 requested data extends the read stream past a predetermined next readahead value.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined next readahead value is stored in a readset data structure associated with the read stream.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined next
- 2 readahead value is updated based on a percentage of the adjusted amount of readahead
- з data.

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- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a read-access style associated
- with the data container is one of the plurality of factors used to select the amount of
- 3 readahead data.

- 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the adjusted amount of
- readahead data equals zero if the read-access style corresponds to a random read-access
- 3 style.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a number of client read
- 2 requests processed in the read stream is one of the plurality of factors used to select the
- 3 amount of readahead data.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the number of client read requests
- 2 processed in the read stream is stored as a count value in a readset data structure
- a ssociated with the read stream
- 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of client-
- 2 requested data is one of the plurality of factors used to select the amount of readahead
- data.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the adjusted amount of
- readahead data is set equal to a predetermined upper limit for large amounts of client-
- 3 requested data.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the adjusted amount of
- 2 readahead data is doubled if the number of client read requests processed in the read
- 3 stream is greater than a first threshold value.
- 1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the client-requested data is identified as
- 2 read-once data when either (i) the number of client read requests processed in the read
- 3 stream is greater than a second threshold value or (ii) a set of metadata associated with
- 4 the read stream indicates that the client-requested data is read-once data.

- 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the adjusted amount of readahead data is stored in one or more buffers enqueued on a flush queue, the flush
- queue being configured to reuse buffers after a predetermined period of time.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the predetermined period of time equals
 two seconds.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus configured to implement a storage operating system that optimizes an amount of readahead data retrieved from a data container of the apparatus, the apparatus-comprising:

means for <u>receiving a first data read command associated with a particular read</u> <u>stream</u>, wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file;

maintaining a plurality of files;

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means for maintaining, for a selected file of the a plurality of files, a plurality of readset data structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected particular read stream, the plurality of factors allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container;

means for receiving a client read request <u>associated with for a the</u> particular read stream <u>and means for determining an amount of readahead data to retrieve from the data</u> container for the particular read stream;

means for receiving a next client read request associated with the particular read stream;

means for locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream;

means for determining whether the storage operating system is permitted to retrieve readahead data from the data container in response to the received client read request;

means for adjusting an amount of readahead data to retrieve from the data container based on <u>modifying one or more of</u> the plurality of factors stored within the

readset data structure, wherein the adjusted amount is a different amount than an amount
retrieved from the client read request;

means for retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container; and

means for determining if the <u>readset</u>readahead data structure meets a criteria for being updated, and if the <u>readset</u>readahead data structure meets the criteria then updating the <u>readset</u>readahead data structure.

- 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the data container is a file, directory,
- 2 vdisk or lun.

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- 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the storage operating system is
- determined to be permitted to retrieve readahead data from the data container when the
- 3 client-requested data extends the read stream past a predetermined next readahead value.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for
- 2 updating the predetermined next readahead value based on a percentage of the adjusted
- 3 amount of readahead data.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the plurality of factors
- used to select the amount of readahead data includes at least one of:
 - (i) the amount of client-requested data,
- (ii) a number of client read requests processed in the read stream, and
- 5 (iii) a read-access style associated with the data container.
- 1 21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the adjusted amount of
- 2 readahead data is doubled if the number of client read requests processed in the read
- stream is greater than a first threshold value.

- 22. (Previously Presented) A storage system configured to optimize an amount of
- readahead data retrieved from a data container of the storage system, the storage system
- 3 comprising:
- a network adapter for receiving a client read request for a particular read stream;
- a memory configured to store instructions for implementing a storage operating
- 6 system that performs the steps of:
- locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream;
- 8 adjusting, in response to the readset data structure for the particular read stream,
- 9 the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container based on a plurality of
- factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of
- data retrieved from the data container:
- retrieving the adaptively adjusted amount of readahead data from the data
- 13 container.
- 23. (Original) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the data container is a file,
- 2 directory, vdisk or lun.
- 24. (Original) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the storage operating system is
- determined to be permitted to retrieve readahead data from the data container when the
- 3 client-requested data extends the read stream past a predetermined next readahead value.
- 25. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 24, wherein the predetermined
- next readahead value is updated based on a percentage of the adjusted amount of
- 3 readahead data.

- 26. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the plurality of
- factors used to select the amount of readahead data includes at least one of:
 - the amount of client-requested data,
- 4 (ii) a number of client read requests processed in the read stream, and
- 5 (iii) a read-access style associated with the data container.

27. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 22, wherein the adjusted amount
 of readahead data is doubled if the number of client read requests processed in the read
 stream is greater than a first threshold value.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media <u>containingeomprising program</u> instructions <u>executedfor execution in by</u> a processor-for the practice of a method for a storage operating system implemented in a storage system to optimize an amount of readahead data retrieved from a data container of the storage system, the method comprising:

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program instructions that receive a first data read command associated with a particular read stream, wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested filemaintaining a plurality of files;

program instructions that maintainmaintaining, for a selected file of the a plurality of files, a plurality of readset data structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected particular read stream based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container:

program instructions that receivereeeiving a client read request associated withfor

a. the particular read stream at the storage system and determining an amount of
readahead data to retrieve from the data container for the particular read stream;

program instructions that receive a next client read request associated with the particular read stream;

<u>program instructions that locatelocating</u> a readset data structure for the particular read stream;

<u>program instructions that determinedetermining</u> whether the storage operating system is permitted to retrieve readahead data from the data container in response to the received <u>next_client</u> read request;

readahead data from the data container, performing executing program instructions 26 thatthe steps of: (i) adjusting adjust an amount of readahead data to retrieve from the data 28 container based on modifying one or more of the plurality of factors stored within the 29 readset data structure: and 30 (ii) retrieving retrieve the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data 31 container; and 32 (iii) determining determine if the readset data structure meets a criteria for being 33 updated, and if the readset data structure meets the criteria then updating the readset data 34 structure. 35 29. (Original) The computer-readable media of claim 28, wherein the data container is a file, directory, vdisk or lun. 2 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieved readahead data is stored in one or more buffers, the buffers containing a flush queue, the flush queue 2 being configured to reuse buffers after a predetermined period of time. 3 31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the read stream 2 corresponds to a read-once data transfer and data retrieved from the data container is stored in the flush queue. 3 32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the retrieved readahead data is stored in the flush queue. 33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein one or more buffers

if it is determined that the storage operating system is permitted to retrieve

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accessed from the flush queue are re-enqueued on a normal queue.

- 1 34. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing readahead data retrieved from a data container of a storage system, the method comprising:
- maintaining a plurality of files; 3

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- maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected particular read stream, wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file;
- receiving a client read request for a particular read stream;
- receiving a next client read request associated with the particular read stream; 9
 - locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream;
- adjusting an amount of readahead data based on the an indicated amount of the 11 next client-requested data and a corresponding readset data structure, wherein the amount of readahead data is adjusted in response to modifying on or more of the plurality of factors and wherein the adjusted amount is a different amount than an amount retrieved 14 from the client read request; and
 - retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container.
- 35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the adjusted amount of
- readahead data is set equal to a multiple of a predetermined amount, and wherein the 2
- multiple is associated with the amount of client-requested data. 3
- 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the adjusted amount of
- readahead data is set equal to a multiple of the amount of client-requested data,
- 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of
- rounding the adjusted amount of readahead data to the size of a data block.
- 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the adjusted amount of 1
- readahead data is set equal to a predetermined upper limit,

container of a storage system, the method comprising: maintaining a plurality of files; 3 maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected 5 readstream based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to 6 adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container; 8 receiving a client read request for a particular read stream at the storage system wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data 9 from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file; 10 locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream; 11 adjusting for the read stream an amount of readahead data based on a read-access style associated with the data container and modifying a corresponding readset data structure: and 14 retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container. 15 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the adjusted amount of readahead data equals zero if the read-access style corresponds to a random read-access style. 3 41. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing readahead data retrieval from a data container of a storage system associated with a number of storage devices, the 2 method-comprising: 3 maintaining a plurality of files; 4 maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data 5 structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected 6 readstream based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container; 8

39. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing readahead data retrieved from a data

9 receiving a client read request for a particular read stream at the storage system wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data 10 from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file; locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream; adjusting an amount of readahead data based on a number of storage devices and 13 a corresponding readset data structure; and retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container. 15 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein adjusting an amount of 1 readahead data further comprises: 2 determining whether a flag is associated with the read stream, the flag indicating 3 that the storage system is associated with more than a predetermined number of storage devices; and 5 in response to determining whether the flag is associated, adjusting the amount of 6 readahead data. 43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the storage devices comprise one or more disks. 2 44. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing readahead data retrieval in a storage 1 system, the method-comprising: 2 maintaining a plurality of files; 3 maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data 4 structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected readstream based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to 6 7 adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container; 8 receiving a client read request for a particular read stream at the storage system wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data 9 from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file; 10 locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream; 11

adjusting an amount of readahead data based on modifying one or more of a plurality of factors stored within a corresponding readset data structure; and retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from a data container. 45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the retrieved readahead 1 data is stored in one or more buffers, the buffers containing a flush queue, the flush queue 2 being configured to reuse buffers after a predetermined period of time. 3 46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the read stream corresponds to a read-once data transfer and data retrieved from the data container is 2 stored in the flush queue. 3 47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the retrieved readahead data is stored in the flush queue, 2 48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein one or more buffers accessed from the flush queue are re-enqueued on a normal queue. 2 49. (Currently Amended) A computer system for optimizing readahead data retrieval in 1 a computer data storage system, the system comprising: 2 3 maintaining a plurality of files: maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data 4 structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected 5 readstream based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to 6 adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container and wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data from a 8 9 contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file; means for receiving a client read request for a particular read stream at the storage 10 system; means for locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream;

13 means for adjusting an amount of readahead data based on modifying one or more of a plurality of factors stored within a corresponding readset data structure; and 14 means for retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from a data container. 15 50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the retrieved readahead data 1 is stored in one or more buffers, the buffers containing a flush queue, the flush queue 2 being configured to reuse buffers after a predetermined period of time. 3 51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the read stream corresponds to a read-once data transfer and data retrieved from the data container is stored in the 2 flush queue. 3 52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein the retrieved readahead data is stored in the flush queue. 2 53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein one or more buffers 1 accessed from the flush queue are re-enqueued on a normal queue. 2 54. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising: 1 maintaining a plurality of files; 2 3 maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected readstream based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to 5 adjust adaptively the amount of data retrieved from the data container and wherein the 6 read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file; 8 9 receiving a plurality of client read requests for a particular read stream at a storage system; 10 locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream;

adjusting an amount of readahead data to retrieve from one or more data

containers based on a plurality of factors stored within the readset data structure;

retrieving the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container;

processing one or more of the plurality of client read requests; and

adjusting, as client requests are processed, the plurality of factors stored within

the readset data structure associated with each read stream, whereby adjusting the

plurality of factors further adjusts to optimize the amount of readahead data that is cached

for each client read request directed to the particular read stream.

- 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:
 determining whether the storage operating system is permitted to retrieve
 readahead data from the one or more data containers in response to each received client
 read request.
- 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more data
 containers are at least one of a file, a directory, a vdisk or a lun.
- 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the storage operating
 system is determined to be permitted to retrieve readahead data from the one or more data
 containers when the client-requested data extends the read stream past a predetermined
 next readahead value.
- 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the predetermined next readahead value is stored in a readset data structure associated with the read stream.
- 59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the predetermined next
 readahead value is updated based on a percentage of the adjusted amount of readahead
 data.

- 60 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein a read-access style
- associated with the one or more data containers is one of the plurality of factors used to
- 3 select the amount of readahead data.
- 1 61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the adjusted amount of
- 2 readahead data equals zero if the read-access style corresponds to a random read-access
- 3 style.
- 62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein a number of client read
- 2 requests processed in the read stream is one of the plurality of factors used to select the
- 3 amount of readahead data,
- 1 63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the number of client read
- 2 requests processed in the read stream is stored as a count value in a readset data structure
- 3 associated with the read stream.
- 64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the amount of client-
- 2 requested data is one of the plurality of factors used to select the amount of readahead
- 3 data.
- 1 65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the adjusted amount of
- 2 readahead data is set equal to a predetermined upper limit for large amounts of client-
- 3 requested data.
- 1 66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the adjusted amount of
- 2 readahead data is doubled if the number of client read requests processed in the read
- 3 stream is greater than a first threshold value.
- 1 67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the client-requested data is
- identified as read-once data when either (i) the number of client read requests processed

- in the read stream is greater than a second threshold value or (ii) a set of metadata
- 4 associated with the read stream indicates that the client-requested data is read-once data.
- 1 68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the adjusted amount of
- readahead data is stored in one or more buffers enqueued on a flush queue, the flush
- queue being configured to reuse buffers after a predetermined period of time.
 - 69. (Currently Amended) A method for optimizing readahead data retrieval for a storage system, the method-comprising:
 - maintaining a plurality of files;

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- maintaining, for a selected file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data

 structures, each readset data structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected read

 stream, wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve

 data from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file;
- 8 receiving a client read request for a particular read stream at the storage system;
- 9 locating a readset data structure for the particular read stream:
 - adjusting an amount of readahead data in response to a corresponding readset data structure based on <u>modifying one or more of</u> a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of data <u>requested to be retrieved</u> from the data container <u>by one or more client read requests associated with the particular</u> read stream; and
- retrieving the adaptively adjusted amount of readahead data from a data container.
 - 70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising:
- allocating more readsets for the file in response to processing one or more client

 "write" requests to the file.
- 71. (Currently Amended) A storage system, comprising:
- an operating system to maintain a plurality of files, and to maintain, for a selected
- file of the plurality of files, a plurality of readset data structures, each readset data

structure holding a plurality of factors for a selected read_stream, wherein the read stream
is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data from a contiguous range of
file offsets within a requested file;

a network adapter to receive a client read request at the storage system for clientrequested data stored in a file;

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a plurality of readset data structures associated with the client-requested data; an operating system to establish a read stream corresponding to each readset data structure of the plurality of readset data structures;

a process to adjust an amount of readahead data in response to a corresponding readset data structure of the plurality of readset data structures which is based on a plurality of factors, the plurality of factors allowing the system to adjust adaptively the amount of data requested to be retrieved, by one or more client read requests directed to the particular read stream, from the data container;

a storage adapter to retrieve the adjusted amount of readahead data from the data container; and

the operating system to determine if the readset data structure meets a criteria for being updated, and if the readset data structure meets the criteria, then updating the readset data structure.

72. (Previously Presented) The storage system of claim 71, further comprising:
the operating system to allocate more readsets for the file in response to
processing one or more client "write" requests to the file.

Please add new claims 73, et seq. as follows:

1	73. (New) A method for operating a computer data storage system, comprising:
2	receiving a first data read command associated with a particular read stream,
3	wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data
4	from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file;
5	determining one or more input parameters of the first data read command;
6	establishing, in response to the input parameters, a readahead hint, wherein the
7	readahead hint determines a number of data blocks to readahead;
8	receiving a next data read command associated with the particular read
9	stream;
0	determining one or more input parameters of the next data read command;
1	modifying, in response to the next input parameters, the readahead hint to
2	obtain a modified readahead hint; and
13	adjusting, in response to the modified readahead hint, the number of data
4	blocks to readahead for the next read command associated with the particular read
5	stream, wherein the adjusted number of data blocks is stored in memory.
1	74. (New) The method of claim 73 further comprising:
2	modifying the readahead hint by writing the input parameter into an associated
3	readahead metadata of the read stream.
1	75. (New) A method for operating a computer data storage system, comprising:
2	receiving a first data read command associated with a particular read stream,
3	wherein the read stream is a set of one or more client read commands to retrieve data
4	from a contiguous range of file offsets within a requested file;
5	determining one or more parameters associated with the first data read command;
6	storing the parameters in a readahead metadata associated with the particular read
7	stream, wherein the metadata determines a number of data blocks to readahead;
8	receiving a next data read command associated with the particular read stream;

determining one or more parameters of the next data read command;

PATENTS 112056-0148 P01-1631

modifying the metadata in response to the parameters of the next data read command; and

adjusting, in response to the modified metadata, the number of data blocks to

readahead for the next read command associated with the particular read stream, wherein
the adjusted number of data blocks is stored in memory.